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Subject: PSFC Executive Meeting Notes - June 13, 2013
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Attachments: [PSFC Executive Committee Meeting Notes 6.13.13.docx](#)
[PSFC Contact List - master.xlsx](#)

Dear PSFC Executives and Steering Committee Members:

Please find attached the meeting notes from our recent Executive meeting. Let us know if we need to make corrections. I am also attaching the most recent PSFC Contact information. If there are changes in personnel please let us know so we can update our list.

Thanks,
Jo

Jo Henszey (formerly Henry)
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PSFC Executive Committee Meeting
6.13.13, 10am-12pm
US Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle
Draft Meeting Notes

In attendance:

Via phone: Jay Davis, USFWS; Rick Cook, BIA; Sherre Copeland and Robin Slate, NRCS; Renee Wallis, Navy; Paul Steucke, JBLM

In person: Tom Eaton, Rick Parkin and Carrie Byron, EPA; Olton Swanson and Lori Morris, Corps; Elizabeth Babcock, NOAA; Jennifer Eberlien and Amy Lieb, USFS; Mark Riebau, FEMA; Tom McDowell, USFWS; Frank Shipley, USGS

- Tom introduced Rick Parkin, who will be taking on a new role of leading Puget Sound issues for EPA. As such he will be the new Executive Committee member and lead for the Puget Sound Federal Caucus. Carrie Byron will be taking over the Steering Committee and coordination work that Jo Henszey has been doing.
- Olton Swanson welcomed the committee to the new US Army Corps of Engineers Building and explained a bit about the process of getting it built and some of the features of the building itself. It is certified LEED gold and is considered a “smart” building, meaning the systems will adapt to the different ways staff use the facility.
- Rick provided a summary of the Deputies meeting that had concluded 30 minutes prior to this meeting’s start time. Tom and Elizabeth provided additional detail as they were on the call as well. Following is a brief summary of that meeting:
 - Bob Perciasepe, EPA’s Acting Administrator, opened the meeting , stressing the significance of the legal burden and responsibilities that the federal government faces in light of the TRAR initiative.
 - He gave some background information and underscored the importance of getting new commitments to advance salmon recovery in the region, as we may face legal action if we don’t act. He wanted a recommitment from national programs to respond to TRAR, and discussed the culvert case as an example of the type of legal action we could face.
 - He also raised the idea of creating an inventory of federal facilities to ensure that we were addressing resource concerns presented by our own assets, and of creating a process for elevating issues to DC when the region is not able to achieve results at that level.
 - Will and Dennis characterized the meeting with Governor Inslee as negative. The state feels that the federal government is putting undue pressure on them while not doing enough themselves.
 - A letter was recently sent from a number of agricultural producers groups to Washington’s congressional delegation unhappy with the federal governments conditioning of funds on the NOAA buffer table. Bob Turner from NOAA stressed that the response to that letter needs to mention TRAR.
 - Several specific issues came up, including nationwide permits, the use of highest astronomical tide as a measure for Corps jurisdiction.
 - Bob P. suggested that the group should meet more often, perhaps quarterly.
 - Senator Cantwell met with Dennis and suggested she is considering holding hearings in the region on this issue

- We need to get our communications teams on board with communicating what our successes have been
- The group moved on to discussing the requested inventory of federal facilities and thought it fit in nicely with the first strategy under our new “path forward,” that of setting the example on federal lands.
 - USFS has an inventory of culverts though it is not totally complete.
 - Unclear whether the Parks Service has an inventory or not
 - JBLM has an inventory
 - Amy Lieb is leading up this effort and has a list of participating agencies
 - Developing this list might provide support for future funding requests
 - A full and complete inventory will take time and funding. Jennifer Eberlien mentioned that due to sequestration they are cutting part time crews and wouldn't be able to do that this summer. They might be able to work with partners to get the work done in the future.
 - Amy thought that she could have a draft inventory (though it won't be comprehensive since it will use existing data) done by the end of July. Then the subgroup can work on prioritization.
 - NRCS has a list of barriers on private land but it was decided to limit this to federal lands and infrastructure
 - FHWA and the Corps will be added to the original list
 - Rick thought that the collaborative effort between the state and tribes on habitat inventory could be a model for this.
- The group discussed the “restoration” strategy
 - Sherre mentioned the letter that ag producers sent to congress and said that we need to clarify errors and work together on implementation
 - Mark mentioned the need to reconcile different buffer recommendations for different situations. We need to articulate why there are different recommendations.
 - Tom thought we first needed to look at what salmon need, then on implementation.
 - Jay mentioned that he attended the tribal habitat conference where Billy Frank Jr. gave the keynote address and was very blunt about legal action being an option (though he indicated it was not preferred since it takes so long). He was pleased with the action around culverts but said that the main problem is we destroy habitat faster than we restore and preserve it.
 - The group discussed the importance of clarifying that the science between buffer recommendations isn't different, and there really isn't any scientific reason for a few feet of difference in a buffer. But this needs to be acknowledged and clarified.
 - Sherre mentioned it would be great to have a CREP like program for agriculture.
 - Elizabeth will check in with Jen Steger who is leading the workgroup but thinks she can have a draft by the end of July also.
- Lastly we moved to the “regulation” category.
 - This group will be comprised of EPA, Corps, NOAA, and FEMA
 - It will focus on shoreline armoring
 - They can build on the work the Salmon Recovery Council's regulatory subcommittee who is also working on addressing regulatory gaps and inefficiencies.
 - We will need to examine the Corps' permitting scheme – what impact is it actually having

- We also need to examine the HAT issue. Muffy Walker from the Corps is working on examining what impacts this change would have on staff, training, and technical needs.
- The group had a brief discussion of the Corps' permitting regime, the difference between nationwide and individual permits, and the incorporation of mitigation sequencing
- We can use Randy Carman from WDFW's data on armoring.
- Agreed to try to articulate federal role in habitat loss and identify issues to tee up for elevation by the end of July.
- The group had a brief discussion of the response being prepared to the NWIFC's 5/13/13 letter giving federal agencies a "report card" on how they were doing on specific TRAR actions.
 - Tom wanted us to focus on what tribes want us to focus on
 - Need to focus on reporting success stories
 - Need to examine commitments and find synergies.
 - We will remove the reference to reporting on the whole matrix to CEQ to give more flexibility as we move forward.
 - There is a concern if we ask for more resources where these will come from.